

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 01421 210937Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----- 077859 /12

R 210911Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2141
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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USIA FOR INA

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP AND NEA/EX

MANAMA FOR MATTRAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, QA, US, SOPN, AFSP
SUBJ: WIRELESS FILE EQUIPMENT FOR EMBASSY DOHA

REF: STATE 301679

1. EMBASSY DOHA ECSTATIC ABOUT PROSPECT OF RECEIVING WIRELESS FILE LOCALLY. WE WILL ARRANGE FOR EQUIPMENNT OPERATOR. RE SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS, DUE TO LOCAL PORT CONGESTION THERE IS WAITING PERIOD OF ABOUT 120 DAYS, WHICH IN PRACTICAL TERMS MAKES SEA SHIPMENT TIME FROM STATES UP TO NINE MONTHS. THEREFORE, REQUEST EQUIPMENT BE AIRSHIPPED.

2. OUR ECSTASY AT PROSPECT OF RECEIVING WIRELESS FILE DIRECTLY IS TEMPERED ONLY BY TIMING, E.E. UP TO ONE YEAR BEFORE WE ARE IN BUSINESS. SINCE EXPANSION OF POST AND ARRIVAL OF RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO, WE HAVE BEEN LIMPING ALONG WITHOUT VIUTAL WIRELESS FILE SERVICE. VALIANT EFFORTS OF SUCCESSION OF NON-RESIDENT PAOS TO PROVIDE WIRELESS FILE BY MAIL

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PAGE 02 DOHA 01421 210937Z

ON TIMELY BASIS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF VICISSITUDES OF LOCAL POSTAL SERVICE. WEEK-OLD WIRELESS FILE IS NEXT TO USELESS. WE ARE ENVIOUS OF OTHER LOCAL MISSIONS, PARTICULARLY FRENCH, WHICH HAS AFP TICKER AND WHICH RECEIVES ON DAILY BASIS C

BLED SUMMARY OF US PRESS FROM PARIS. FRENCH AMB, WITH

JUST HINT OF SARCASM, PASSES ALONG TIDBITS OF LATTER TO US ON OCCASION.

3. ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO EXPEDITE PROCUREMENT, SHIPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF WIRELESS FILE EQUIPMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED, PARTICULARLY DURING THIS PERIOD OF TRANSITION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW ADMINISTRATION, WHEN EVERYONE IS HANGING ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES OUT OF WASHINGTON. IS THERE NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, SOME USED EQUIPMENT OR BACKUP EQUIPMENT SOMEWHERE IN THIS WORLD THAT WE COULD LAY OUR HANDS ON IN LESS THAN A YEAR? WE ASK THAT SEARCH BE MADE TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY INTERIM POSSIBILITIES.

4. LACK OF WIRELESS FILE HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR MAJOR FRUSTRATIONS HERE SINCE MISSION EXPANDED. THIS IS NOT A FULLY FUNCTIONING EMBASSY WITHOUT DAILY WIRELESS FILE SERVICE. WE APPRECIATE USIA'S EFFORTS TO FILL THIS NEED, AND ASK THAT THEY BE ACCELERATED WITHIN LIMITS OF THE POSSIBLE.

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